

# Rulemaking Decision Guidance

External Stakeholder  
(e.g. Petition)

Congressional  
(Statute)

NRC  
(Staff or Commission)

Possible Rulemaking Initiators

Define Need

Refine  
Need

Seek Stakeholder Feedback e.g.:

- Public Meetings/Workshops
- White Papers
- Formal Information Collection Methods (*Paperwork Reduction Act applies*)

Considerations for Selecting a Solution

See "[How We Regulate](#)" for additional details

**If the need could be addressed through formal agency guidance, consider:**

- MD 3.7: NUREG
- MD 6.3: Rulemaking Process
- MD 6.6: Reg Guide
- MD. 8.18: Gen. Communication

Reference Associated Management Directives [here](#)

**If the need affects limited stakeholders, consider:**

- Exemptions
- License Amendments
- License Conditions
- Rules of Particular Applicability

**If the need must be addressed in a short timeframe\*, consider:**

- Exemptions
- Enforcement Options
- Exigent or Emergency license amendments

*\*Less than 1 years*

**Consider role of Tribes / Agreement States:**

When Tribal or Agreement State interests need to be addressed (MD 5.1)



Rulemaking is required:

- When directed by the Commission
- When directed by Congress

- Consult Rulemaking Center of Expertise / Office of General Counsel for additional guidance
- Review Rulemaking Approach Tool